

POWDER POINT BRIDGE

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GURNET BRIDGE

The Gurnet Bridge, jutting from the Powder Point peninsula to Duxbury Beach, is one of several landmarks that lends tradition to this community's 328 year history.

Vital Need

Unlike more dormant historical sites as the Miles Standish Monument or the John Alden House, the Gurnet Bridge continues to fill a vital need for Duxbury residents - access to the beach.

Since its dedication in October, 1892, the rickety half-mile structure has been twisted by hurricanes, damaged by fire, and in Duxbury's more severe winters - warped by cold.

For nearly 30 years, the bridge was a focal point in frequent battles between the town and state over the control of the beach.

It was a lovers' lane in the 1920's and since its completion, has been a welcome spot for fishermen from the South Shore despite what is traditionally a small catch.

In the town's few published histories the bridge receives little mention other than its existence as either the Gurnet or Powder Point Bridge or the Long Bridge.

Mrs. Warren Wentworth of Samoset Rd., town historian, said the first suggestion of building a bridge across Duxbury Bay appeared in the 1888 town warrant.

In Article 8, voters were asked to see what action they would take about a bridge to the beach.

Although the cost of building the passage was shared equally by the town and prival parties, Mrs. Wentworth thinks it was built for beach residents to reach their homes and not as an access for bathers.